



# Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Pres. - John Gettinger      V. Pres. - Dave Hacker  
Treasurer - Robert Shepard      Secretary - Dale Brier

**November 13, 2013 1:00 pm**

Big Four Depot  
200 N. 2nd Street  
Lafayette IN 47904

## Attendance

### **Voting Members Present:**

Allen County - Ron Zartman  
Carroll County - George Mears  
Cass County - Arin Shaver  
Fountain County - Bob Shepherd  
Gibson County - Bill Knowles  
Huntington County - Dave Hacker  
Knox County - Rama Sobhani  
Miami County - Kenneth Einselen  
Parke County - Penny Cox  
Posey County - Ralph Weinzapfel  
Sullivan County - John Gettinger  
Tippecanoe County - Jim Andrew  
Vigo County - Kara Kish  
Wabash County - Mike Beauchamp  
Warren County - Steve Eberly  
DNR - Dale Brier (alternate)

### **Non-Voting Members Present:**

Bill Smith - INDOT

### **Guests:**

Allen Nail - Tippecanoe Co. Parks  
Cindy Einselen  
Leah Kopp - DNR  
Stan Lambert - WREC  
Dan McCain - Wabash & Erie Canal  
Todd McGraw - McGraw's steakhouse  
Tom Murtaugh - Tipp. Co. Commissioner  
Sara Peel - WREC  
Rae Schnapp - Tippecanoe County  
Talia Tittlfitz - WREC

### **Voting Members Absent:**

Adams County - Ryan Noblitt  
Vermillion County - Larry Southard  
Wells County - Scott Elzey

### **Counties not participating**

Jay County

## Meeting minutes

### **Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda**

John Gettinger called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM everyone introduced themselves and John called for the proxies, Dale said there were none.

One item was requested to be added to the agenda, a request for a sponsorship.

### **Comments from Visitors or Guests**

Stan Lambert representing the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation gave a presentation on the progress they have made and what their future plans include. He gave a power point presentation along with several large maps of the area.

### **Review and Approval of the September 11, 2013 Minutes**

Jim Andrews motioned to approve the minutes as written; the motion was seconded by Dave Hacker. Motion passed.

## **President's Report**

John Gettinger reported that he continues helping local youth with river trips in Parke, Vermillion and Sullivan Counties and a State Senator traveled with them on one of their trips. 70% of them request to come back and help after they have graduated from college. He mentioned that he also did a speaking engagement at a nearby church.

## **Finance Report (Dale Brier)**

Dale Brier had a handout with the current revenue and expenses from the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund (WRHCF) (see attached). The 10/31/13 balance of the WRHCF is \$439,353. Some of the grant projects have had funding encumbered so the money is no longer showing in the balance. Dale added that so far this year the Commission has had \$8,000 in sponsorships go through. A motion was then made to accept the finance report as presented with Jim Andrews making the motion followed by a second by George Mears. Motion passed.

Dale made the comment that the Commission had received a thank you letter from Art Spaces for the sponsorship to help fund the Paul Dresser art project.

## **Committee Reports**

**Executive** – no report, the committee did not meet.

**Budget Report** - Bob Shepherd distributed a budget as of 10/31/13. He strongly suggested that the budget really needed to be gone through at the retreat in March. A motion was made and passed based on the information that Bob had presented.

**Grants** – Kara Kish said that it was unfortunate that she didn't have any new information. She has not spoken to committee members. She said that her goal is to work toward getting a rough draft for everyone at the January meeting and then to finalize it at the retreat. Kara will schedule a grant committee conference call soon.

**Legislative** – no report

**Water Trail** – Dale did get the information he needed from Tippecanoe County and he can add them to his list. There was nothing else to report.

**Banks of the Wabash** – Ken E. reported that the next meeting is 11/20/13 in Wabash at the Honeywell Center Boardroom.

## **Old Business**

### **Funding Requests**

**Huntington County Signs** – Dave Hacker gave an update on the request. Dale said that there was a question as to whether it was a onetime request of \$500 or a yearly request. Dave informed him it was just a onetime request. Kara Kish made the motion to fund this project with a second from George Mears for the Boy Scouts of Huntington County to take care of the county river roads for a period of three years. Motion carried.

**HRI Display** – At the last meeting, Brandon Kerns with Healthy Rivers Initiative (HRI) came in and asked for money for a display and for artwork costs. Dale reported that the DNR could produce and print the artwork and he recommended the WRHCC loan their display to HRI. Much discussion followed. Dale explained that when it was all said and done, HRI would not need any

money. Ken E. then went on to make a motion that the commission formalize the loan of their display and not fund the request, a second to the motion was then made by Bob S. The motion carried.

**Tippecanoe County** – Dale received an email requesting a sponsorship for the Riverfest for \$1,000. This request is being submitted today for a vote in January. The Riverfest is a good event for bringing people to the river. Sara Peel said that usually about 5,000 people attend the event. With a sponsorship the Commission's logo would be printed as a sponsor on everything. She added that a lot of the events were for the younger crowd but now they are trying to get some attractions that will draw the teens into the event.

### ***River Currents***

John G. made the announcement that if you had something worth reading about the Wabash River then get it in so that it can be published!

### **Newport Chemical Depot Land Re-Use**

No report. Penny did say that Phil Cox had been working with them quite a bit, and also Larry Southard who is sick and could not come has been working with them as well.

### **Sign Program**

Ken E. said that since the last meeting that he is looking at getting preapproval from INDOT for the signs we plan to use. Bill Smith from INDOT was in attendance to comment on the sign procedure. Much discussion ensued and Bill went over everything about River Road and Water Access signs, including sharing the draft designs. In both cases the WRHC logo was approved to be on the signage. The access sign would be 24"X 24" which is standard for that type of sign on a state highway. INDOT has approved the logo but would prefer that the word Commission be left off and just be Wabash River Heritage Corridor. It will also be in solid colors. Arin Shaver made the motion to accept the designs and have the word Commission left out, Ralph W., seconded and the motion carried. Before the river road signs can be used, a river route needs to be finalized.

### **River Clean-ups**

Rae S. mentioned that she had participated in a river clean-up on October 26<sup>th</sup> with more than 200 volunteers. It was cold but very successful. She worked with Purdue's "Greenweek," volunteers. They gathered around 3,000 pounds of trash, 12 tires out of mud, including some really big tractor tires.

Invasive species were talked about.

### **2014 Appointments**

Dale B. said all counties (except for one special case) have received their appointment letters. He also said that he had already received two back, Miami and Jay Counties. Most counties appoint in January at their first meeting of the year, which is usually later than the Commission's first meeting.

### **Officer Elections**

Elections will take place in January, Ralph will chair the nomination committee and Bill K. will serve on the committee. They will bring a slate in January for voting.

### **2014 Retreat**

After discussion about the best alternate date, it was decided the retreat will be held at Turkey Run State Park on March 18-19, 2014. Rae S. suggested having speakers there. Dale suggested not

having them speak at the retreat and spend the time at the retreat on Strategic planning. A better option would be to have the speakers give presentations at future regular meetings.

### **Master Plan Discussion**

Dave H. wants everyone to read the master plan before the retreat. He mentioned that the master plan is on the website. Kara K. then made a motion that the executive committee is responsible for putting together and establishing an agenda for the retreat, motion was seconded by Dave H. motion carried.

### **Upcoming committee meetings**

The executive committee will have a meeting to work on the agenda. The grants committee will have a meeting as well. Kara K. said that she would be calling the members of the grants committee in a week or two.

### **Final comments by Commission members, alternates, and guests**

Ron Z. announced that Saturday, November 16, at 2 PM the Little River Wetlands, Inc. would be sponsoring a founder's hike. The hike is to recognize the founder's concept of creating the Little River's wetland project.

Kara Kish announced that the Vigo County Parks and Recreation Board just approved the site master plan for Dewey Point in the Wabashiki Wetlands areas. They are hoping in the next twelve months to see a shelter, restrooms, parking, kayak and canoe launch, and other amenities.

John G. said that the Hudsonville Park District is going to put in a floating dock on the Wabash River. There hope is to have it up and going this summer.

Dan McCain announced the Old Fashion Christmas at Canal Park, December 14-15; they also hold a special walk the day after Christmas and usually have a good crowd to show up.

Special thanks were given to Todd McGaw for opening up his restaurant for lunch, and to Rae S. for coordinating the morning events.

The meeting was adjourned at 3 PM with a motion from John G. followed by a second from Kara K.

**48686 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund**

FY14 as of 10/31/2013

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
431401	AD - Oil and Gas royalty along		71,472.80
510101	Payroll Salaries & Wages	2,141.12	
516003	Payroll Social Security	150.1	
517003	Payroll Perf St Pd Em COntr	64.24	
517005	Payroll PERF State Share	239.82	
518105	Anthem CDHP1	86.63	
518151	Anthem Trad 2	174.43	
518606	Payroll Life Insurance	2.9	
518798	Payroll Delta Dental Trad	12.85	
518800	Anthem Vision	1.52	
518901	Payroll Employee Assistance	0.36	
519006	Payroll Long Term Disability	37.75	
519503	Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch	15.25	
519721	Payroll Health Savings Acct 1	7.66	
541002	Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	54.27	
591024	NonRealEstRnt-Vehicle Rentals	29.69	
595110	InState Travel - Mileage	2,359.28	
595120	InState Travel - Per Diem&Meal	156	
595130	InState Travel - Lodging	416.92	
599116	AdmOp-Event Sponsor	8,000.00	
659410	Postage	100.99	

**Total FY14 Expense To Date:      \$14,051.78****Fund Balance:**

	6/30/2013	613,854
FY14 revenues		71,473
FY14 Expenses		14,052
FY14 Encumbrances		231,922
<b>balance as of 10/31/2013</b>		<b>439,353</b>

DNR payroll	\$2,934.63
travel costs	\$3,016.16
sponsorships	\$8,000.00
operating	\$100.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,051.78</b>